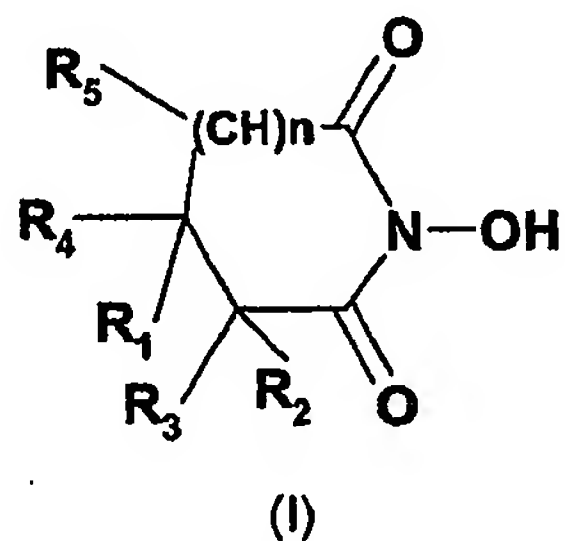


CLAIMS

1. Use of at least one compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds between two proteins, in a composition applied topically to the skin, as an agent for preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin or the orange-peel appearance.

2. Use according to Claim 1, characterized in that the said proteins are Amadori products formed as a result of the Maillard reaction.

3. Use according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the compound capable of cleaving the diketone crosslinking bonds between two proteins is a N-hydroxy imide chosen from (a) the compounds of formula (I):



in which:

R₁ and R₂ are each a hydrogen atom or together form a bond;

R₃, R₄ and R₅ independently represent a hydrogen atom; or a linear, branched or cyclic C₁-C₁₂ alkyl radical, or an aryl group or a heterocycle, which may be substituted with one or more groups X chosen from: a C₁-

C₆ alkyl radical and a group -OR, -SR, -NRR', -COOR, -CF₃, -F, -CN, -CH₂OR, and -OCH₂O-, in which R and R' independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl radical or an aryl group, it being understood that two adjacent groups X may form a ring with the atoms to which they are attached, or R₃ and R₄, and/or R₄ and R₅, together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring optionally substituted with one or more alkyl, -ORa, -SRa, -NRaRb or -COORa groups in which Ra and Rb independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl radical; n is 0 or 1, and (b) the organic or mineral salts thereof.

4. Use according to Claim 3, characterized in that n = 0 and R₁ = R₂ = R₃ = R₄ = H.

5. Use according to Claim 3, characterized in that n = 0, R₃ = R₄ = H and R₁ and R₂ together form a bond.

6. Use according to Claim 3, characterized in that n = 0, R₃ is a phenyl group, R₄ = H and R₁ and R₂ together form a bond.

7. Use according to Claim 3, characterized in that n = 0, R₁ and R₂ together form a bond and R₃ and R₄ together form an aromatic ring.

8. Use according to Claim 3, characterized in that n = 1, R₁ and R₂ together form a bond, R₃ and R₄ together form an aromatic ring and R₄ and R₅ together

form an aromatic ring.

9. Use according to Claim 3, characterized in that $n = 1$ and $R_1 = R_2 = R_3 = R_4 = R_5 = H$.

10. Cosmetic process for preventing or
5 treating the signs of ageing of the skin or the "orange-peel" appearance, comprising the topical application to the skin of a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one N-hydroxy imide as defined in any of Claims 3 to 9.

10 11. Process according to any one of Claim 10, characterized in that the said N-hydroxy imide represents from 0.1% to 2% of the total weight of the composition.

12. Process according to Claim 10 or 11,
15 characterized in that it is intended for preventing or treating the signs of ageing of the skin associated with the glycation of dermal proteins.

13. Process according to any one of Claims 10 to 12, characterized in that it is intended for
20 preventing or treating the loss of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

14. Process according to Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that it is intended for preventing or combating the signs of photo-ageing of the skin.

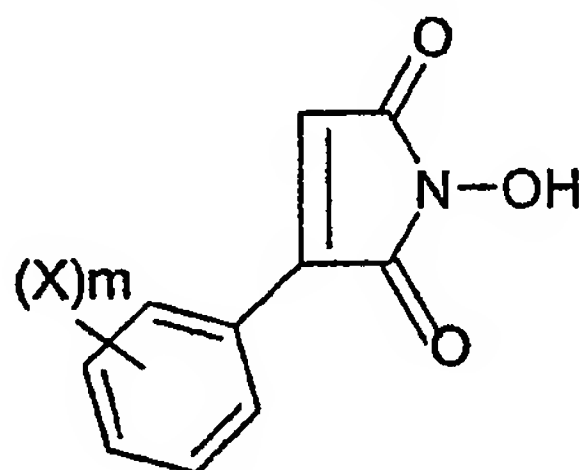
25 15. Process according to Claim 14, characterized in that it is intended for preventing or combating wrinkles and/or pigmentation marks.

16. Process according to any one of Claims 10 to 13, characterized in that the composition is applied to individuals with a lack of tonicity or elasticity of the skin.

5 17. Process according to Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the composition is applied to individuals with cellulite.

18. Process according to any one of Claims 10, 11, 14 and 15, characterized in that the
10 composition is applied to individuals presenting signs of photo-ageing, in particular wrinkles and/or pigmentation marks.

19. Compounds of general formula (II):



(II)

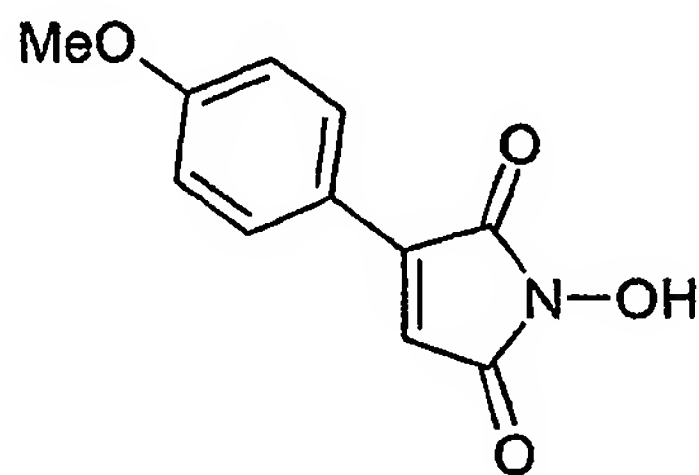
15 in which:

X independently represents a group chosen from: a C₁-C₆ alkyl radical; or a group -OR, -SR, -NRR', -COOR, -CF₃, -F or -CN, in which R and R' independently denote a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl

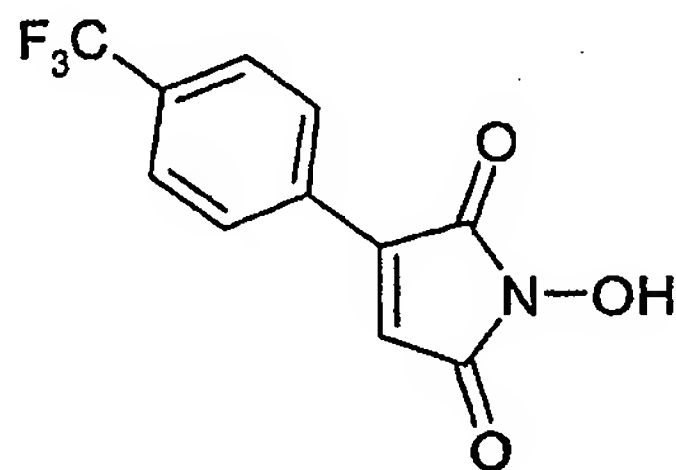
20 radical or an aryl group; and

m is an integer ranging from 1 to 5,
it being understood that two adjacent groups X on the
ring may together form an $-OCH_2O-$ bond.

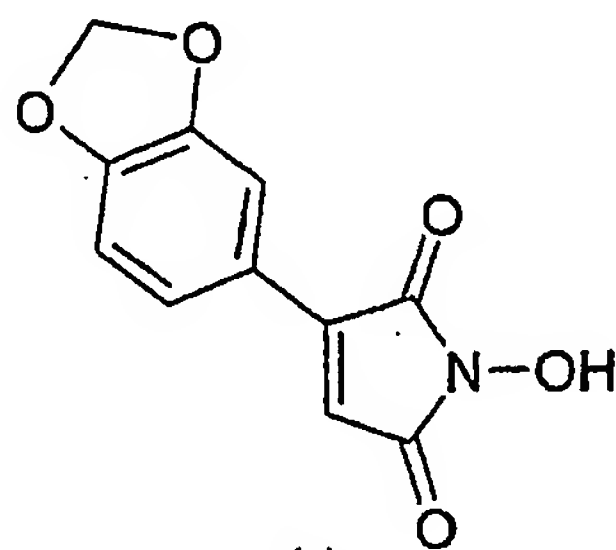
20. Compound according to Claim 19,
5 characterized in that it corresponds to one of the
following chemical formulae (a) to (k):



(a)

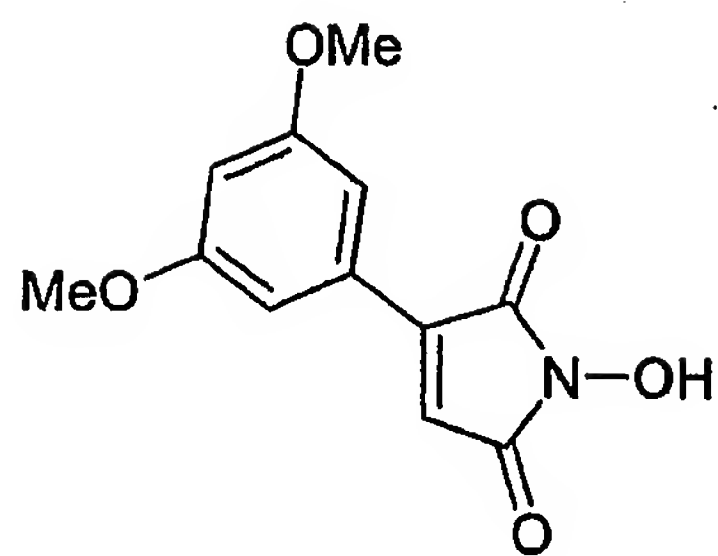


(b)

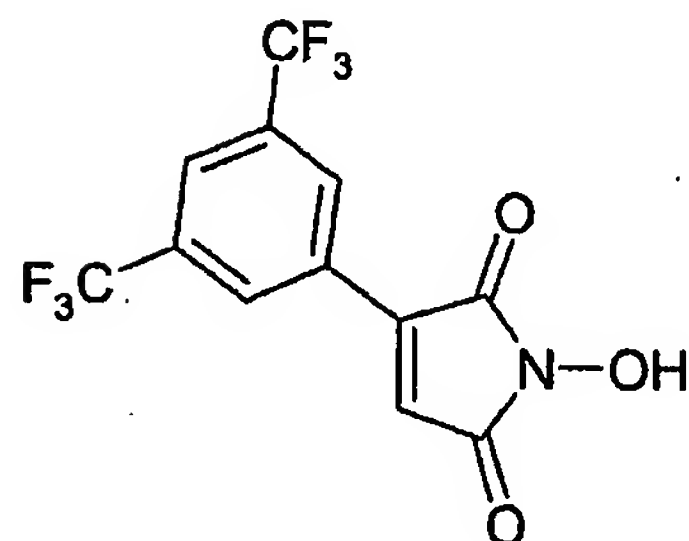


(c)

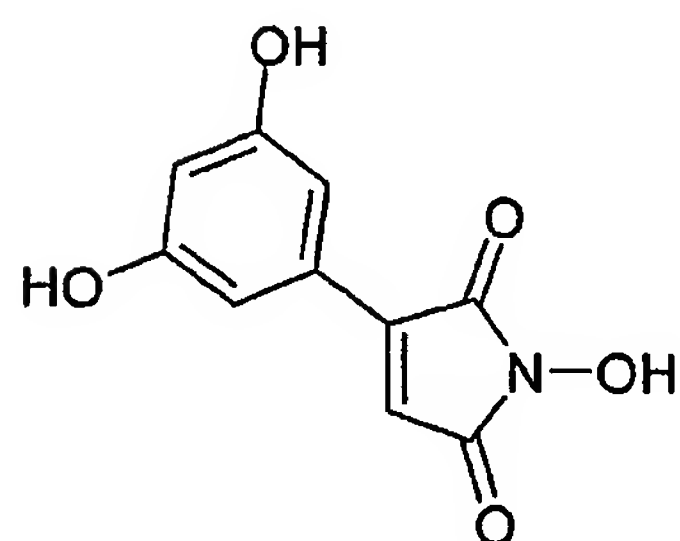
31



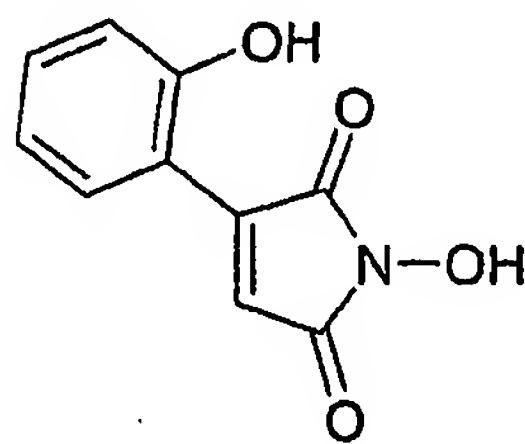
(d)



(e)

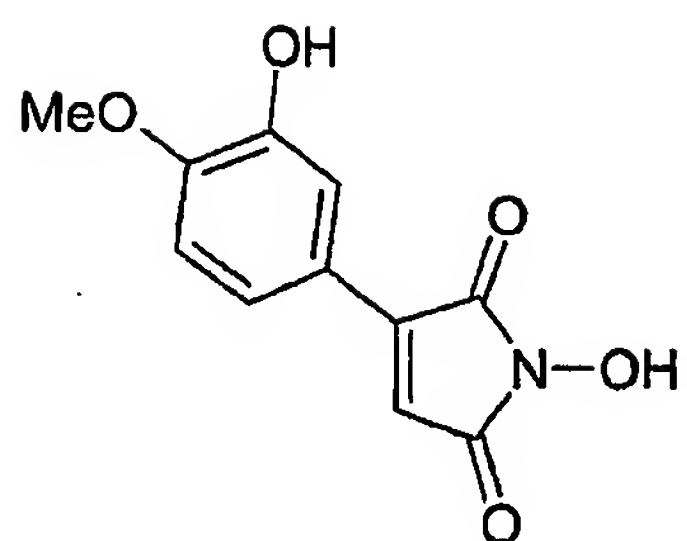


(f)

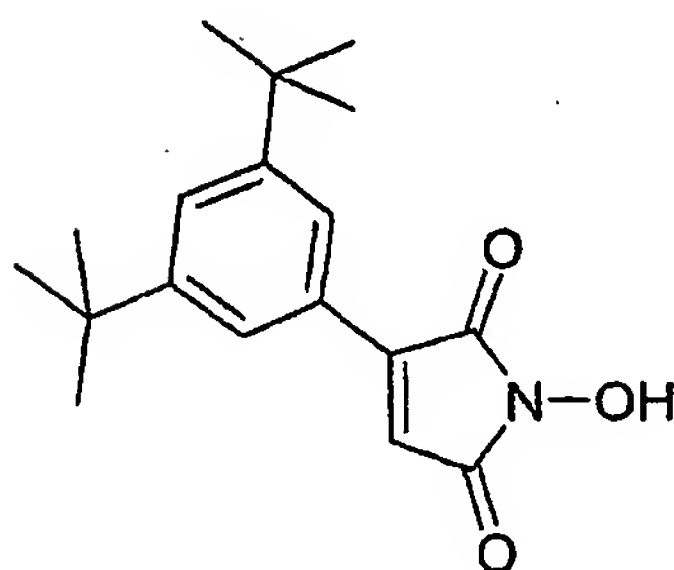


(g)

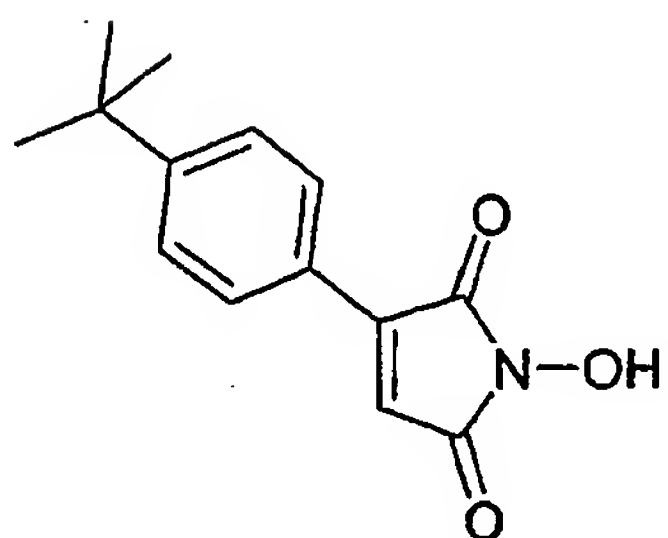
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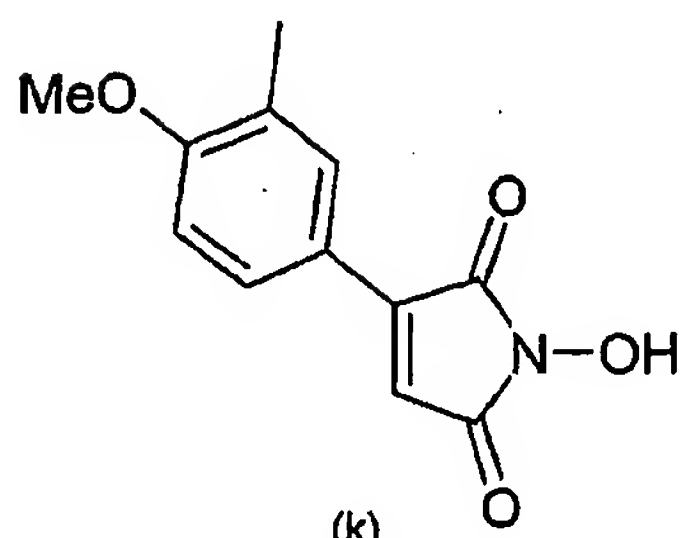
(h)



(i)



(j)



(k)

21. Composition containing, in a

physiologically acceptable medium, at least one compound according to Claim 19 or 20.

22. Composition according to Claim 21, characterized in that it is suitable for topical
5 application to the skin.

23. Composition according to Claim 21 or 22, characterized in that it also contains at least one compound chosen from: desquamating agents and/or moisturizers; depigmenting agents; agents for
10 stimulating fibroblast proliferation; agents for stimulating keratinocyte proliferation; agents for stimulating keratinocyte differentiation; dermo-decontracting agents; tensioning agents; anti-pollution agents or free-radical scavengers; and lipolytic active
15 agents or active agents for reducing adipose tissue.

24. Composition according to any one of Claims 21 to 23, characterized in that it also contains at least one UVA-active and/or UVB-active organic photo-protective agent and/or a mineral photo-
20 protective agent.